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# LANDSCAPING

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## Site Plan Review

## City of Saint Paul

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### **LANDSCAPE PLAN**

A landscape architect or nurseryman must prepare the landscape plan. The plan must show:

**New landscaping** (Trees, shrubs, grass and other ground covers)

- Each new plant on the plan and identify it by species and size
- A planting list for the entire site to summarize plant material used
- Tree and shrub planting details
- Areas to be seeded or sodded

**Existing vegetation**

- All existing trees larger than 6" in diameter (identified by species and size)
- Any trees that will be removed
- Any trees that will be relocated and show new location and provide transplanting detail
- Any other significant existing vegetation

**Other landscape elements**

- Fences and walls
- Berms
- Lighting
- Signs

### **LANDSCAPING FOR PARKING LOTS**

The minimum requirement for parking facilities is one square foot of landscaping for every ten square feet of paving. These areas must be landscaped using trees, shrubs, sod and ground cover plants. Gravel or landscape rock does not, by itself, constitute landscaping.

Parking lots must be landscaped and screened from public streets and sidewalk.

- A landscaped setback must be provided. Where cars park so that their bumpers face the setback area, a setback of 7' must be provided. In other cases, the setback must be at least 4' wide.
- The landscaped setback must include a visual screen (except in industrial area). This screen can be either a masonry wall or a decorative fence (not chain link) at least 3.5' high. Decorative fences must be supplemented with a hedge that is at least 50% opaque.
- A shade tree must be planted every 30' in the landscaped area.

In addition to perimeter landscaping, parking lots with more than 50 spaces must have landscaped islands planted with shade trees. One island is required for every 50 parking spaces. The island must be at least the size of a parking space (9' x 18').

### **SCREENING**

Some land uses must be visually screened from adjacent property. These uses include:

- Off-street parking adjacent to residential areas
- Loading areas
- Outdoor storage
- Trash dumpsters

Screening may consist of a wall or fence, earth berm, plant materials or combination of these. The screen must be at least 80% opaque. Chain link fences are not acceptable as screens.

## **TREES**

### **Size**

New shade trees must be a minimum of 2.5" in diameter at the time of planting. Evergreen trees must be at least 6' high. The roots of new trees must be balled and burlapped.

### **Recommended species**

River Birch	Fast growing, moisture loving, often planted in clump form, interesting bark (35')
Hackberry	Fast growing, tolerates salt and drought and poor soils, round form (75')
Greenspire Linden	Fast growing, tolerates shade, pyramidal form, dense foliage (45')
"Emerald Lustre" Norway Maple	Medium growing, tolerates salt but not drought, round form, dense foliage (50')
Northern Pin Oak	Medium growing, tolerates drought, good fall color (50')
Scotch Pine	Fast growing, tolerates salt, medium needles (50')
Black Hills Spruce	Medium growing, tolerates salt and heat and drought (60')
Colorado Spruce	Slow growing, tolerates salt, regular pyramidal form (75')
Crab Apple	Fast growing, spring flowers, some varieties do not produce fruit (12' to 25')

### **Boulevard trees**

Boulevard trees must be planted at the time of construction if they are not there now. The cost is the responsibility of the property owner or developer. The species of the trees is determined by the City Forester. A permit from the City Forester (651-632-5129) is required to plant or remove trees in the boulevard. There is no charge for this permit.

### **Preserving existing trees**

Buildings and paved areas should be located to avoid affecting existing trees whenever possible. Trees should also be considered when designing the grading plan: raising or lowering the existing grade as little as 6" within the drip line of a tree can damage or kill it. The City may require existing trees to be shown on the grading plan to make it easier to see how grading will affect them. Where grading or construction activities will be occurring near a significant existing tree, snow fence must be placed around the drip line of the tree. This must be shown on the site plan.

Specific requirements for saving and replacing trees apply to the City's Tree Preservation District and River Critical Areas. Refer to the [Tree Preservation handout](#).

## **SHRUBS**

Shrubs must be at least 18" tall when planted, except for certain low, creeping shrubs. The roots may be potted or balled and burlapped. Shrubs are normally planted in lines to form a hedge or in groups. Recommended species include:

Compact Amer. Cranberry Bush	Medium growing, does not tolerate salt, fall color, makes a good hedge (5')
Alpine Currant	Medium growing, tolerates salt and drought, makes a good hedge (3')
Redtwig Dogwood	Fast growing, does not tolerate salt, red bark for winter color (6')
Winged Euonymous	Slow growing, does not tolerate salt, interesting bark and winter form (8')
Lilac	Fast growing, spring flowers (12')
Anthony Waterer Spirea	Medium growing, summer flowers, makes a good low mass planting (3')
Arborvitae	Evergreen, slow growing, many varieties, round and pyramidal forms (4' to 15')
Juniper	Evergreen, slow growing, spreading and pyramidal forms (1' to 10')
Yew	Slow growing, shade tolerant, spreading and pyramidal forms (4' to 10')

## **GRASS**

All areas of the site that are not otherwise landscaped or do not have existing vegetation must be sodded or seeded.

**Please call 651-266-9086 if you have any questions on landscaping.**